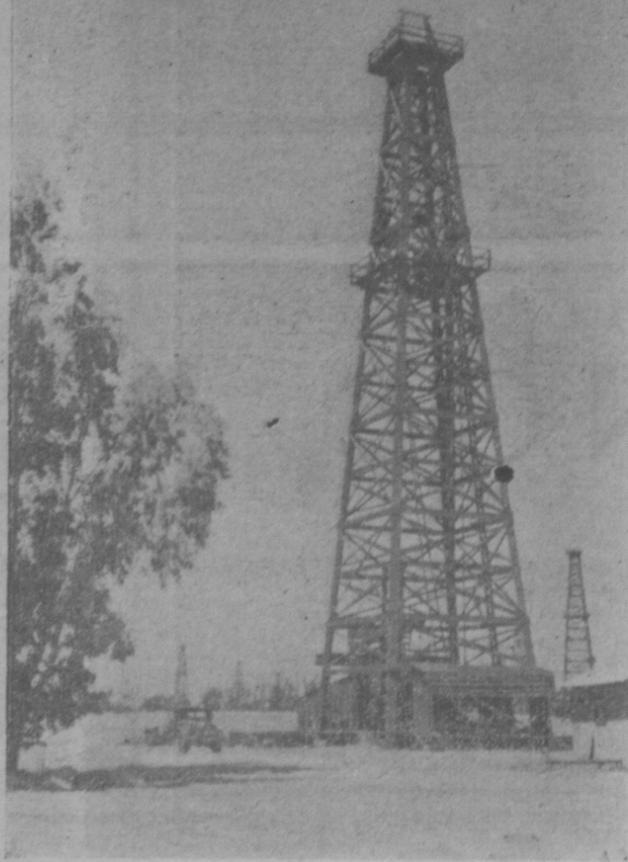


No Ugly Blemish on Nature's Face in Largest Oil Field in Southern California . . .

# Vast OIL RESOURCES



● Huge Tree Shades Del Amo No. 1, Discovery Well of the Torrance Oil Field.

## ● TORRANCE . . . on Review

Southern California's largest oil field, 3775 acres. 670 wells at peak.

Produced 78,930,796 barrels of oil in 14 years.

Peak production, 8,819,100 barrels between July 1 and December 31, 1924.

Third largest field in production, July 1-Dec. 31, 1925.

Most wells in Southern California, Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1925.

Averaged 343.7 barrels of oil with only 2.0 barrels of water per well per day, from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1923.

Homes, roses, lawns, tomatoes dot the field today. Carefully developed for long-time production by major companies.

Field comes to edge of but does not intrude on built-up portion of city.



● Beautiful Lawns Grace Workers' Homes.



● Tented Tomato Plants (Above) Stand Like Soldiers as Flowers Bloom Amid Derricks. (Below)



IF YOU were asked to provide plans and specifications for a complete, modern, balanced city, what would you include?

Of course, there would be residences, schools, churches, a business section—those are common to every city. But something else must be included if your city is to endure and grow. Your populace must have some means of earning a living.

In Torrance that was provided for in huge industrial plants, according to the original planners. Large tracts of level land, near markets and near transportation, were the foundation of the prosperity that was to be.

Had the original planners foreseen what was to be the cause of Torrance's first "boom" they could not have chosen its site better. Here were thousands of acres from which to select a location. Southern California's biggest crop was yet unheard of. There was little or no thought of petroleum. Yet the site for the future city was decided upon almost to the inch where it would have been put had the events of the future been possible to foresee.

### Black Gold Spouts

GO BACK, in memory, to 1921. Principal oil fields in California were those around Fresno and Bakersfield. Then, suddenly, Southern California burst into prominence. Huntington Beach! Signal Hill! Santa Fe Springs! One after another, tremendous new fields were pouring forth their treasures in huge gushers.

There seemed no limit. Almost anywhere man punctured the earth he found oil.

Nature had waited millions of years for this day and now it seemed she was going to drown Southern California with more black gold than could be handled, more than ever before had been known anywhere. The state's production was to double in the next two years, but Los Angeles County production was to increase to over five times its former volume.

From that day to this there has never been a time that at least half the state's supply did not come from this single county, while production in the last half of 1923 from Los Angeles County alone was more than twice the entire state production in any similar period prior to 1922.

### Signal Hill Boom

SIGNAL HILL— or, as it is known in petroleum circles, the Long Beach field, was a scene of feverish activity. Drilling was going on wherever an oil company or wildcat promoter could lease a lot. Derricks were so closely built that a great platform could have been erect-

ed, using them for its supports.

Such development was necessary, if individual property holders were to obtain their share of the supply, for failure to drill meant that a neighbor would drain away all the oil under one's own property. Haste was essential, and in 1922 the field produced 18,300,000 barrels of oil, of which over 15,000,000 barrels poured forth in the last six months.

Similar production was noted in the other two new fields, Huntington Beach giving 11,500,000 barrels for the year, with over 7,000,000 in the last half; and Santa Fe Springs producing 11,200,000 barrels, with over 9,000,000 from July to December.

### Edge of Field

LONG BEACH drillers noted a peculiar fact. As one came off the western slope of Signal Hill the oil supply suddenly ran out. East of American avenue one was almost certain of production, but west of that line the probabilities were that he would have a dry hole. Some geological fault had ended the basin in an abrupt line.

Where, then, could it be found again? To the west, a few miles across the valley of the Los Angeles river and Nigger slough, were the Palos Verdes hills and the rolling ground around Torrance. Sporadic attempts had been made several times near the more promising Palos Verdes hills, but nothing had been found. True, there were indications, but more than indications are required to produce gasoline and to pay investors.

### Torrance Chosen

OIL GEOLOGISTS for the

larger companies decided that the rolling country west of Torrance was the logical spot, if the vein of oil were to be picked up again. Quietly the land was leased in huge tracts. The distressing town-lot drilling conditions of Signal Hill were not to be duplicated in Torrance.

Again, Torrance was lucky. With control almost entirely in the hands of those who made a business of oil production rather than stock selling, the field could be developed in an orderly, progressive manner. And instead of being worked out in a few months it was possible to plan for a long, systematic run.

Under the old pattern the Torrance field today would have been a desolate waste where nothing could grow, abandoned to nature bearing the largest scar in the state. But instead we find a thriving area of nearly six square miles in which the pumps are lazily working, drawing steady supplies from the ground as needed.

And among the derricks are good roads, pleasant homes, spacious lawns, beautiful gardens that would be a credit to any community. Even in the purely agricultural section of the fields one finds acres on acres of tomatoes, each plant with a tiny paper hat for protection against the sun, thriving as though the nearby derricks were built only as ornaments on the landscape.

### Data Unreliable

CONTROL of the field by the large companies had one effect which makes it difficult to write the oil history with exactness. Reliable information

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